

Claims

- [c1] A method for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:
- providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer;
 - displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;
 - allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
 - receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at the site remote from the customer;
 - generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters; and
 - making the cutting file available to the customer.
- [c2] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
- generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the final design parameters; and
 - displaying the final representational image to the customer.
- [c3] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 2, wherein the product comprises a plurality of components, and further comprising the steps of:
- generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the product;
 - displaying the at least one individual component image; and
 - allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.
- [c4] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of making the cutting file available to the customer comprises transmitting the cutting file to the customer from a memory system.
- [c5] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of making the cutting file available to the customer comprises storing the cutting file on a

memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network, and further comprising the step of allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c6] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving data comprises receiving data through a public communications network.

[c7] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 1, further comprising the step of executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c8] The method for providing a cutting file of claim 7, wherein the step of executing a financial transaction comprises executing the financial transaction through a public communications network.

[c9] A method for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the method comprising the steps of:
 providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer, wherein the product comprises a plurality of components;
 displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;
 allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
 generating a customized representational image of the product that incorporates the at least one modified design parameter;
 displaying the customized representational image to the customer;
 generating at least one customized representational image of the individual components;
 displaying the at least one customized individual component image to the customer;
 receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at a site remote from the customer through a public communications network;
 generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a

cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters;
storing the cutting file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network;
executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file through a public communications network; and
allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c10] Apparatus for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the apparatus comprising:
means for providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer;
means for displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;
means for allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
means for receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at the site remote from the customer;
means for generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters; and
means for making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c11] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, further comprising:
means for generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the final design parameters; and
means for displaying the final representational image to the customer.

[c12] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 11, further comprising:
means for generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the product;
means for displaying the at least one individual component image; and
means for allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.

[c13] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises means for

transmitting the file to the customer from a memory system.

[c14] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises means for storing the file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network, and further comprising means for allowing the customer to access the cutting file.

[c15] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, wherein the means for receiving data further comprises means for receiving data through a public communications network.

[c16] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 10, further comprising means for executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.

[c17] The apparatus for providing a cutting file of claim 16, wherein the means for executing a financial transaction further comprises means for executing the financial transaction through a public communications network.

[c18] A computer program product for providing a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the computer program comprising:
instructions for providing at a site remote from the customer a generic model for a particular product to be made by the customer;
instructions for displaying to the customer a representational image of the product corresponding to the particular product and default design parameters for the image;
instructions for allowing the customer to modify at least one default design parameter and to select final design parameters for the model;
instructions for receiving data corresponding to the final design parameters at the site remote from the customer;
instructions for generating at the remote site using the generic model for a particular product a cutting file that incorporates the final design parameters;
and

instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer.

- [c19] The computer program of claim 18, further comprising:
instructions for generating a final representational image of the product that incorporates the final design parameters; and
instructions for displaying the customized representational image to the customer.
- [c20] The computer program of claim 18, further comprising:
instructions for generating a representational image of at least one individual component of the product;
instructions for displaying the at least one individual component image; and
instructions for allowing the customer to specify tool-related data.
- [c21] The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises instructions for transmitting the file to the customer from a memory system.
- [c22] The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for making the cutting file available to the customer further comprises instructions for storing the file on a memory system accessible to the customer through a public communications network, and further comprising instructions for allowing the customer to access the cutting file.
- [c23] The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for receiving data further comprises instructions for receiving data through a public communications network.
- [c24] The computer program of claim 18, further comprising instructions for executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of making the cutting file available to the customer.
- [c25] The computer program of claim 24, wherein the instructions for executing a financial transaction further comprise instructions for executing the financial transaction through a public communications network.
- [c26] The computer program of claim 18, wherein the instructions for providing a

cutting file template further comprise instructions to access a database of generic models for particular products, and the instructions for displaying a representational image of the product corresponding to a particular model further comprise instructions to access a database of representational images.

[c27] The computer program of claim 26, wherein the computer program is embodied on a plurality of media enabled to operate a plurality of computers systems interconnected by a network.

[c28] A computer readable memory system encoded with a data structure for enabling provision of a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool to a customer, the memory system being accessible over a network, the data structure comprising:
a plurality of generic models for a respective plurality of products to be made by a customer; and
a plurality of representational images corresponding to the respective plurality of products and having default design parameters.

[c29] A method for a customer to acquire a cutting file for a computer numerical control robotic tool, the method comprising the steps of:
viewing a representational image of the product corresponding to a generic model for a product to be made by the customer and to default design parameters for the image;
identifying and inputting any desired modifications to the default design parameters, creating final design parameters;
transmitting data corresponding to the final design parameters to a site remote from the customer;
requesting a cutting file from the remote site; and
receiving the cutting file.

[c30] The method of claim 29, further comprising the step of viewing a final representational image of the product corresponding to final design parameters.

[c31] The method of claim 29, further comprising the steps of:

viewing a representational image of at least one individual component of the product; and
inputting tool-related data.

- [c32] The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving the cutting file is performed directly from a storage medium.
- [c33] The method of claim 29, wherein the step of receiving the cutting file is performed through a public communications network.
- [c34] The method of claim 29, wherein the step of transmitting data is performed through a public communications network.
- [c35] The method of claim 29, further comprising the step executing a financial transaction in which the customer purchases the cutting file in advance of receiving the cutting file.
- [c36] The method of claim 35, wherein the financial transaction is executed through a public communications network.